Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, WA 98112-2097

May 31, 2002

Dear Interested Parties:

We would like your help in continuing the process to develop a sound scientific basis for recovery planning for salmon and steelhead in coastal Oregon streams. Specifically, we are seeking highly qualified scientists to work on an interdisciplinary team that will develop biological ESA delisting criteria for Oregon coast coho salmon.

Background. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has organized formal recovery planning for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead into geographic areas, or domains, with the objective of developing comprehensive recovery plans for all listed salmonid species (or Evolutionarily Significant Units = ESUs) within the domain. Each domain will have an associated Technical Recovery Team (TRT), which will be responsible for establishing biologically based ESA recovery goals for listed anadromous salmonid species within the domain. TRTs will also serve as science advisors to the recovery planning phase, which will involve development of a comprehensive set of measures to achieve the recovery goals. TRTs were formed in 2000 for the Puget Sound and Willamette/Lower Columbia River domains, and last fall TRTs in the Interior Columbia River, Southern Oregon/Northern California (SONC), and North Central California Coast domains began their work. For more information about salmon recovery planning, please visit the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's website at http://research.nwfsc.noaa.gov/cbd/trt/about.htm. The document "Recovery Planning Guidance for Technical Recovery Teams," which is also available at this website, provides a description of the technical work of the TRTs. Initially, the TRTs will focus on identifying population structure within ESUs and developing population and ESU-level viability criteria. Subsequent efforts will focus on identifying the quantity, quality, and distribution of habitat necessary to support viable salmon populations and ESUs, as well as technical analysis of other limiting factors and proposed recovery measures.

Solicitation. We are asking for nominations to add additional members (probably 2-4) to the existing TRT responsible for SONC coho salmon to provide the expertise that would allow that TRT to also develop biological criteria for Oregon coast coho salmon. Because both the SONC and Oregon Coast domains only include one listed species (coho salmon) in adjacent geographical areas, it will be more efficient to have a single TRT rather than two separate teams, which in any case would need to be closely coordinated. The SONC TRT is already working on the first series of tasks for coho salmon, and that work can be readily expanded to the Oregon Coast domain. Information about the existing SONC TRT and other aspects of recovery planning in California can be found at the website for the NMFS Santa Cruz laboratory: http://www.pfeg.noaa.gov/tib/esa/salmonids/trt/index.html.

Nominations. Nominations should follow the same procedures outlined for other TRTs. Candidates can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party. Nomination packages should include a detailed Curriculum Vitae that describes pertinent publications and experience and a narrative explanation of how the nominee meets the following selection criteria. Each TRT member must satisfy the first three criteria below (numbers 1-3) and at least one of the remaining three criteria (numbers 4-6):

1. High achievement in a relevant discipline, which may include ecology, genetics, fisheries, hydrology, river geomorphology, or other appropriate disciplines.
2. High standards of scientific integrity, independence, and objectivity.
3. Demonstrated interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary team setting.
4. Extensive knowledge of West Coast salmon biology, status, or habitat.
5. A record of scientific accomplishment documented by contribution to the peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of creative scientific accomplishment.
6. Demonstrated ability to forge creative solutions to complex problems.

The Curriculum Vitae and supporting documentation should provide enough information to facilitate the evaluation and selection of candidates according to the six criteria enumerated above. Based on the written materials submitted, an independent panel of scientists will evaluate all nominations to ensure that they meet the above criteria. NMFS will consider adding additional TRT members from among the candidates most highly ranked by the screening panel.
We anticipate that members of the TRT will need to devote at least 25 percent of their time to accomplish the necessary tasks. We expect the process of finalizing delisting criteria and related tasks for all ESUs within the domain to take up to two years. The TRT will incorporate and build on existing technical information related to salmon recovery, including state and tribal data and reports and products developed by Oregon's Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team.

Please forward your nominations to Henry Carson at the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Seattle, WA 98112 (henry.carson@noaa.gov). **Nominations received by July 1, 2002 will be ensured full consideration in this round of evaluation by the panel.** In addition, NMFS will accept nominations indefinitely for inclusion in a "reserve pool" to fill vacancies or to add members with expertise in specific areas as needed by the TRT. Nominations received after the deadline will be sent to the review panel periodically for screening according to the criteria listed above.

Thank you for your help in this important process. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Waples at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (206) 860-3254 or Elizabeth Gaar at the Northwest Regional Office (503) 230-5434.

Sincerely,

D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator
Northwest Region

and

Usha Varanasi, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Cc: Rod McInnis, Mike Tillman, Pete Adams, Robin Waples, Elizabeth Gaar